



West Meon Parish Council

c/o Mrs D Heppell Email: clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk

MINUTES OF WEST MEON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30PM ONLINE DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

THOSE PRESENT: Residents including Cllrs A Trenchard, C Adams, M Edwards, R Gedye, J Nicholson, G Silk and C Waller.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Heppell (Minutes)

BY INVITATION: County Councillor R Huxstep and City Councillor H Lumby

APOLOGIES: City Councillor L Ruffell

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 0

1. Welcome from Chairman

Cllr Trenchard (Chairman of the Parish Council) welcomed residents and Councillors to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Village Hall AGM

Mr Chris Town (Chairman) welcomed Members, and advised that the Village Hall Management Committee and AGM was held in the last financial year. The Chairman's report was circulated and received (see Appendix B).

The Chairman advised of issues with the long term viability of the village hall building and that 2020 started off well with hiring to local groups, but was closed in March 2020 due to Covid.

The Chairman advised that maintenance work has been carried out to masonry and windows. The Village Hall Management Committee is grateful for grants received from Winchester City Council during the Covid pandemic. Cllr Lumby advised that there were further grants available for the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2019

Minutes were circulated of the **25th April 2019** meeting and these minutes were accepted and **approved with minor amendments.**

4. Report from Cllr Trenchard Chairman of West Meon Parish Council (WMPC)

The Chairman's report was circulated and received (see Appendix B). The Chairman thanked her fellow Councillors and their Clerk for their commitment and hard work during the Covid pandemic and also the maintenance team of Mac Edwards, Dayle Westwood and Will Hillier. The Chairman

provided information on the grants awarded to groups in the community over the past year and advised that further grants are available until the end of the financial year. She also thanked the Clerk and Cllr Nicholson for their support on finance and advised the Parish Council audit had been passed.

The Chairman reported work carried out by the Parish Council, including a new circular seat, tree work, resurfacing the steps by the church, and commenting on numerous planning applications.

The Chairman advised that Cllr Waller had made progress on the Village Design Statement and produced two booklets on the 2nd World War and that donations raised were given to the British Legion.

The Parish Council had made substantial grants in the community and supported a whole range of village institutions and enterprises.

The Chairman gave thanks to Cllr Roger Huxstep, Hampshire County Councillor, and Cllrs Hugh Lumby and Laurence Ruffell, Winchester City Councillors, for their support over the year. She also thanked new councillors for joining the Parish Council and advised that there are two vacancies on the Parish Council for parishioners to join.

5. Hampshire County Councillor Huxstep’s Report

The Chairman thanked Cllr Huxstep for his support and assistance over the past year. Cllr Huxstep’s report following the meeting was circulated (see Appendix C).

Cllr Huxstep reported on Hampshire County Council’s continuing support to older residents during the Coronavirus outbreak by removing the restriction on using free Older Person’s Bus Passes before 9:30am from Monday 25th January 2021.

He also reported on help for families and individuals who are struggling to cope financially, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. Assistance is available to pay for food and energy, as well as essential items, from the County Council’s **connect4communities** programme via the Citizens Advice Service (0800 144 8848) and local community groups across Hampshire.

7. Winchester City Councillors Lumby/Ruffell’s Report

Cllr Lumby’s report was circulated and received, giving information on garden waste collection. Cllr Lumby also advised that a new planning application is being submitted on Westbury House.

Cllr Waller advised that the community still had concerns on traffic management issues. He also thanked Councillors for their continuing support during this difficult time and challenges with Covid 19.

9. Public session

There were no questions arising from the public

Cllr Trenchard thanked both Cllr Huxstep and Cllr Lumby for their reports and Councillors for attending.

There being no further matters for discussion, the Chairman thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

.....

Appendix A

Report for West Meon Village Hall

Report on 2019 for the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

2019

The facilities were reasonably well used during 2019, mainly during school term times. Users/activities offered regularly included those activities we have seen for years, the School, Beavers & Scouts, Dancing, Keep-Fit & Boxercise, a Choir, Musical Theatre Club & West Meon Theatre, Drama lessons, Table Tennis, WI, & the Garden Club. There were one-off events and parties.

Following the closure of the Little School the small hall was only being regularly used for drama classes and we continued searching for other users for it - unsuccessfully. The introduction of monthly Saturday coffee mornings and table-top sales was originally conceived as a money-raising activity but was enjoyed as a social event by many who attended.

The purchase of a second defibrillator for the village was driven by the committee and supported well financially by Hampshire County Council and the Parish Council.

Total income of around £12,000 and total ordinary expenditure of around £15,000 resulted in a total loss of £3,614 for the year. Finding a way to close that deficit was elusive and it remains an ongoing concern for the committee and questions the long term viability of the building.

2020

2020 started with many of the usual activities continuing in the hall but usage was lower as a number of groups including Beavers, Scouts and the Ladies Choir sadly no longer existed. Covid-19 intervened and the trustees closed the hall in line with the law requiring that on 20th March.

Maintenance work was undertaken during the closure including to the external woodwork, fascias, soffits & gutters, and some masonry. The very poor state of the repair of the windows to the rear of the hall was noted but rather than repair these original windows at a cost of around £2,000 it was decided to fit new double glazed windows at a cost of around £3,400. These will have a much longer life than the repairs and will helpfully reduce heat loss and therefore electricity usage – making them a good investment. Electricity is our biggest cost and consumes over 30% of our rental income – and is some ways our biggest ongoing problem. Fitting the windows was completed yesterday.

The window contractor suggested that it was likely that the materials around the windows could contain asbestos and so a professional asbestos survey was commissioned. This has confirmed the presence of materials containing asbestos inside and outside the hall in soffits and roof under-cloaking, but that no remedial work is required whilst these remain undisturbed.

Under the Covid-19 Business Rates – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme we received a grant from Winchester City Council for £10,000. This has certainly helped to sustain the finances of the hall for the year. Income has been reduced not only whilst the hall was closed but also during the re-opening period in late summer and Autumn as usage was much lower than even the start of the year. We don't yet have approved accounts for 2020, but it looks like we will have achieved a surplus of around £6,000 – showing that without the Grant we would have experienced a £4,000 loss. On top of the loss for 2019 it's clear that without some drastic changes we have a significant problem in maintaining the hall as financially viable for the long term.

For reopening in September, an emergency Covid treatment station was set up in the corridor; hand sanitisers were purchased and installed, stringent new regulations were demanded of users and a new

cleaning regime instituted. The NHS Test and Trace application was also supported with QR codes on entry. The hall closed again in November, reopened briefly, then closed again in December. It remains closed at present to everyone except the school.

In all conversations about whether the hall should be closed or open, and what usage is permitted when open, the trustees bear in mind the purpose of the charity which talks about the facility being 'held upon trust for the purpose of physical and mental training and recreation.....for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of West Meon' – and that this is of course the sole reason for the hall's existence. So we are very reluctant to deny residents the right to use the Hall. But our overriding thought is to ensure the health and safety of all users, the cleaner and the trustees, as well as all residents of the parish. And of course we have to obey the law.

When we can reopen to other usage is currently unknown.

Appendix B

Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for:

West Meon Annual Parish Council Meeting

COVID-19

The pandemic is still very much with us. Professor Chris Whitty's persistent advice is for each of us to assume that we are carrying the virus and therefore to behave accordingly – obey the rules. For up to date, data please see:

[Hampshire COVID-19 data | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) and for the Hampshire COVID-19 weekly datapack:

[Name of report](#) [Detail of report \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Extended times for older people to use free bus passes.

Hampshire County Council is continuing to support older residents during the Coronavirus outbreak by removing the restriction on using free Older Person's Bus Passes before 9:30am from Monday 25th January 2021. The start time restrictions will be lifted so people can use their bus pass at any time. This temporary change to the scheme is intended to continue until schools reopen to all students. This will also help Hampshire residents take up COVID vaccinations when they are offered if they have early morning appointments, and to travel at quieter times for essential journeys such as those for food shopping. Residents who have a disabled person's bus pass can already use these at any time of day, any day of the week.

[Safer travel guidance for passengers](#) and details of the [National Lockdown restrictions](#) are available on the Government's website.

National lockdown restrictions include:

- Residents to stay at home, apart from limited exemptions set out in law such as shopping for necessities.
- Non-essential retail, indoor gyms and leisure facilities, and personal care services to close.
- People to work from home if they can but they may travel to work if this is not possible, for example in the construction and manufacturing sectors.
- Those who are 'extremely clinically vulnerable' are advised to always stay at home, unless for exercise or medical appointments, and not to attend work, even if they are unable to work from home.

Extra funding available to support children in need in Hampshire during February half term and help for people whose income has been affected by COVID-19.

Extra funding worth more than £320,000 is being made available for childcare, voluntary and charitable organisations to provide activities and food for vulnerable Hampshire children during the February half term school holiday. Families and individuals struggling to cope financially, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, are being reminded that help to pay for food and energy, as well as essential items, is available from the County Council's **connect4communities** programme via the Citizens Advice Service (0800 144 8848) and local community groups across Hampshire.

To learn more about the 'connect4communities' projects and to apply for a Community Grant visit connect4communities.org



Cllr Roger Huxstep
Member for Meon Valley Division
Hampshire County Council

28th January 2021

Appendix C

West Meon Parish Meeting Winchester City Councillor Report January 2021

1. Response to pandemic Winchester City Council's principal focus since the outbreak of the pandemic has been on addressing issues arising from Coronavirus. Its definitive list of advice can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/covid19>. The graphic below illustrates Winchester City Council's response to the pandemic, including the scale of Government grants distributed by the Council to businesses. Particular focuses at this stage include providing new grants and advice to businesses, ensuring support is available for the vulnerable and preparing for the period up to Christmas. An emphasis on shopping local is expected. Changes have had to be made to the Council's budget for the current financial year to reflect the impact of the pandemic on its finances and in particular the loss of income from car parking and commercial leasing. This has led to the deferral of some development works and the proposed temporary closure of the Guildhall. In fact, the Guildhall has now been leased in part for use as a Nightingale Court until June 2021. Nightingale Courts have been set up to manage a backlog of legal cases arising from the pandemic. This court will hear civil cases which have been on hold since March with court sessions being held in the Bapsy Hall, King Charles Hall and Conference Chamber.

2. Refuse collection Waste and recycling collections have been maintained since the start of the pandemic. Bottle banks have been utilised to a greater extent which has led to some overflowing. Residents are asked to report any such overflowing so that the bottle banks can be emptied out of their usual cycle. The last collection of garden waste using the green bags was this month. An optional service using brown bins will take its place; there will be an annual charge for this, which will include the supply of the bin and fortnightly kerb side collection. Two sizes of bin will be available. The initial charges have been set at £39 for a 140 litre wheeled bin and £59 for a

240 litre wheeled bin. The next garden waste collection will be on 5th February and this will be the new brown bins only. There are some limited exceptions where you can still use the old green bags, basically for assisted collections or where specific dispensation has been given. The new brown bin can take up to four weeks to arrive. They can be ordered by calling 0300 300 0013 or online at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up>. In the meantime, the Hampshire County Council tips are still open, although you will still need to book in advance.

3. Motorbikes update Residents will be aware of the local group CANS (Communities against noise and speed, www.canshampshire.co.uk/community/communities-against-noise-and-speed-15072/home/) which was formed to campaign on the issue of antisocial motorbikes in the area. A forum has been set up to bring all stakeholders together, including local MPs, the police, Hampshire County Council and local councillors; this is chaired by CANS. A number of police operations have also been carried out. The overall objective is to discourage the small minority of motorcyclists who ride in an antisocial manner from coming to the area. Various parishes have acquired what are called speed indicator devices (SIDs). These show the speed vehicles are travelling and have a good success rate at reducing speed, especially if moved around. Another initiative which we have been exploring with Winchester City Council is the use of environmental legislation to address the issue, combined with new acoustic cameras which measure vehicle noise. They are currently investigating whether something called a Public Spaces Protection Order could be used here, which could enable bikes with excessively noisy exhausts to be identified and fined.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby